

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ OCT 26 1954 ★
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DELAWARE ASC

FARM NEWS

A281.8
St 1
Cop. 2

No. 9

October 6, 1954

FARM ABUNDANCE CHALLENGE TO AMERICA, SAYS BENSON

"Our new program is fair to farmers and consumers alike. It is aimed primarily at encouraging production for the market, rather than for storage in government warehouses," Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson recently told a farm group.

"Once the back-breaking surpluses are cut down to normal levels," the Secretary declared, "this new farm program will make it possible to get rid of stringent production controls -- controls that nobody likes but which are part and parcel of high, fixed price supports....."

"Certainly, we still have troubles in agriculture. But most of our troubles are the result of trying to patch up the agricultural situation of today with the programs and tools of yesterday....."

"Our troubles are the kind that almost any other country in the world would welcome -- because ours are the troubles of abundance. Since 1947-49, for example, we have increased agricultural output per man-hour by nearly one-fourth. We have learned how to create abundance, but we have not yet learned well enough how to live with abundance.

"People who can learn to create abundance surely can learn also to distribute it. And even as we learn, let us be grateful for the opportunity to use abundance for the good of our people and of mankind.

CCRN LOAN RATES FOR 1954

The 1954 corn loan rate of \$1.78 per bushel has been announced for all Delaware counties. This compares with \$1.76 for 1953 crop corn and represents 90 percent of the October 1 effective parity price.

.....
: CORRECTION: :
: :
: Last month's news letter erroneously stated that the maturity date for :
: 1954 crop corn loans will be May 31, 1954. The maturity date should have: :
: been stated as May 31, 1955. :
: :

"A STITCH IN TIME....."

"Let's grow up, not burn up" is the USDA slogan for farm families this week. The week of October 3-9 was proclaimed by President Eisenhower as National Fire Prevention Week. This proclamation has a special significance to farm families. As a nation fire costs us annually nearly a billion dollars. However, because of special risks and the lack of organized protective facilities in many rural areas, farmers carry more than their share of this loss. And farmers as a group carry less fire insurance than any other group in the country.

More important than property losses is the fact that during the past year fires cost the lives of about 3,000 farm people.

All USDA employees who contact farm people are going "all out" in encouraging farmers to take a positive action toward fire prevention.

FARM CENSUS STARTS NOVEMBER 8

The 1954 census of agriculture is scheduled to begin November 8 in Delaware. Census figures on total crop acreages are used by the Agricultural Marketing Service to revise its crop estimates for each preceding five years. The AMS crop estimates are the official data for USDA and are used as the basis for establishment of State and county allotments for any commodity subject to allotment or marketing quota programs.

It is of importance to every farmer that census figures be correct and complete. All farmers are urged to cooperate fully with the census takers in helping them to get complete and accurate data. All facts obtained about individual farms are confidential. Information released is in the form of totals for counties, states, or larger areas.

COUNTY ELECTION BOARDS TO MEET FRIDAY

County election boards for all Delaware counties will meet in Newark, Friday, October 8, to discuss their duties in connection with the election of local ASC committeemen.

County election boards will function for the first time in this year's elections. They are provided for in regulations of the Secretary issued several months ago. These regulations provide for a county election board comprised of the following: The county agent as Chairman, the SCS technician, the FHA county supervisor, the master of the county Pomona Grange, and the president of the county Farm Bureau.

It is the responsibility of the county election board to appoint a community election board in each ASC community. The community election boards will conduct community committee elections in accordance with instructions to be issued by the Commodity Stabilization Service, and when required they will serve as a nominating committee for the community.

Election of ASC community and county committees has been scheduled tentatively for early December. The new committees will take office January 1, 1955.

WHEAT GROWERS CAN PROTECT UNUSED ALLOTMENTS

The Agricultural Act of 1954 permits wheat growers to surrender any part of 1955 wheat acreage allotments that will not be planted. The release may be permanent or for 1955 only. The acreage so released may be reapportioned by the county committee to other farmers who apply for an adjustment in their allotment out of such released acreage.

This provision permits farmers who will not plant their entire allotment for harvest in 1955 to protect their allotment for subsequent years. Any acreage released for 1955 only will be regarded as having been planted on the farm releasing it except where no wheat is seeded on such farm for three consecutive years including 1955.

The final date for Delaware farmers to release any wheat allotment or to apply for any of the allotment so released is October 15, 1954. Forms for either purpose are available at county ASC offices.

FHA LOANS AVAILABLE FOR PERMANENT CONSERVATION PRACTICES

At the last meeting of the State committee, Mr. Ralph Peters, State Director, Farmers Home Administration, announced that a new type of credit for financing certain conservation practices will be available through FHA. Loans will be available to farmers to pay the cost of materials, equipment, and services directly related to carrying out such practices as construction of drainage systems, tree planting, pasture improvement, and the basic application of lime and fertilizers. In addition to loans for these conservation practices FHA loans can be obtained to develop irrigation systems and farm water supplies.

According to Mr. Peters, loans will be made available from funds obtained from private sources. Application for loans must be made to the county offices of FHA.

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

A single plant of ryegrass was grown in a one foot square box 22 inches deep and filled with fertile soil. This plant grew for four months. At the end of that time botanists were instructed to find out all they could about the top growth and root growth of this plant. Here is what they found at the end of the four months' growing period: 1st - The plant had 80 top shoots with an average of 6 leaves per shoot, all approximately 20 inches tall. 2nd - The total exposed surface of the plant was 51.4 square feet. 3rd - There were 14 million main, secondary, tertiary and quaternary roots. 4th - The total surface of the roots was 130 times that of the shoots (top growth). 5th - Approximately 3 miles of new roots and 50 miles of new root hairs were added each day in the soil from this one plant. Author - Dr. Frank App - General Manager of the Seabrook Farms of New Jersey - who cultivate 20,000 acres of crops.

In terms of plant nutrients (food), the acre value of a well-grown cover crop is equal to a ton of high grade fertilizer. In terms of organic matter, it is equal to a 10-ton application of manure. This is the value that Dr. Frank App places on cover crops, rightly handled, for his mammoth vegetable growing enterprise in New Jersey.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR 1955 PLANTINGS

There is still some misunderstanding about "restrictions" on crops that can be planted for harvest in 1955. Actually, present regulations on 1955 crops can be summarized briefly by dividing them into three parts as follows:

1. To avoid a marketing quota penalty, a farmer must not plant for harvest in 1955 any wheat in excess of his farm wheat allotment. Exception: Regardless of the size of the farm allotment, up to 15 acres of wheat may be grown without a marketing quota penalty.
2. To be eligible for a price support loan on any crop in 1955, a farmer must not exceed his farm allotment for any individual crop and he must not plant for harvest more commercial vegetables than the average of the acreage planted to vegetables in 1952 and 1953. Exception: A producer who exceeds his wheat allotment but does not plant more than 15 acres of wheat will not be eligible for wheat price support but will not lose his eligibility for price supports for other crops for which he has observed allotments.
3. To be eligible for a 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program payment, a farmer must not exceed his farm allotment for any basic crop (not even a wheat allotment of less than 15 acres). The basic crops are wheat, corn, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, and rice.

FOR THE DELAWARE ASC STATE COMMITTEE

By: Paul W. Mitchell

Paul W. Mitchell, Chairman

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation
Courtney and Academy Streets
Newark, Delaware